

signing the licence agreement and payment of space segment reservation charges @ 25% of annual space segment rental charges on the date of signing the licence agreement. The spot frequency is allotted after following the established procedure of Standing Advisory Committee for Frequency Allocation (SACFA) and INSAT Network Operation and Control Centre (NOCC).

[Translation]

Banned Medicines

*315. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some banned medicines including 'Queena Crine' are again being used as contraceptive in major cities of the country;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by this Government in this regard; and

(c) the details thereof and the action taken by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) No banned contraceptive is allowed to be used in the country. The drug Quinacrine is not a banned drug as it was never introduced in the country. The Indian Council for Medical Research had initiated limited trials in 1993 with due approvals which were discontinued in the year 1994 when trials on 8 selected women indicated an unacceptable failure rate for prevention of pregnancy. Recently it was reported in the press that the drug was administered by some doctors/agencies in Calcutta, Delhi and Bangalore. In three cases which were enquired into, it has been reported that the drug is not in use at present. Investigations on the use of Quinacrine are continuing and action as considered necessary would be taken to protect the interests of consumers.

[English]

Peace Treaty with Pakistan

*316. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indo-Pakistan people's forum has urged both the countries to sign a peace treaty to mark the Golden Jubilee of Independence of both the countries;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the dialogue is proposed to be resumed in the matter; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government are committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan peacefully, through bilateral discussions as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. The Joint Statement issued in Islamabad on 23rd June, 1997, on the conclusion of the second round of resumed Foreign Secretary level talks, identified the various issues to be discussed between the two countries and established a mechanism under which these discussions would take place. The Joint Statement also prescribed that the next round of talks would be held in Delhi in September, 1997. Government are committed to establishing a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan.

Trade with Myanmar

*317. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Mizoram approached the Union Government for reopening border trade with Myanmar and Bangladesh along river and surface routes;

(b) if so, Union Government's reaction to these proposals;

(c) whether the Government have made an adequate survey to assess the growth potential of trade and tourism for this land-locked State; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have received requests from Government of Mizoram for reopening border trade with Myanmar and Bangladesh through land routes from Champhai and Demagiri respectively.

(b) Government have approached the Government of Myanmar for opening of Border trade through the Champhai-Rih route. The Government of Myanmar, have not agreed to operationalising this route for border trade at present, mainly on the grounds that adequate infrastructural facilities are not available. In case of Bangladesh, the Government of Mizoram had proposed border trade through Demagiri. Government have conveyed to Bangladesh their interest in reopening border trade inter alia from Mizoram and other states in the north-east of the country. During the 5th Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission held in March 1997, the two sides decided to set up a Group of Experts to make recommendations by the end of 1997 for operationalisation of the arrangements for border trade between the two countries.